Alumni College

for Middlebury Alumni, Parents, and Friends

Bread Loaf Mountain Campus, Ripton, Vermont

America at the End of the Millennium

Course Descriptions

1. The First Amendment in Political Philosophy and Law
Murray Dry, Charles A. Dana Professor of Political Science
Flag burning, school prayer, hate speech, and pornography are some of the first amendment issues that have been at the forefront of the American political and legal agenda in the second half of this century. What is the proper relationship between religious freedom and freedom of speech in the United States today? What are the limits to free speech? Is it possible to reconcile the prohibition of state-sponsored religion with the protection of the free exercise of one's religious beliefs? We will start by considering the thoughts of some major political philosophers. Then we will turn to a direct examination of the most important first amendment cases in American constitutional law.

2. New Hollywood/Old Hollywood
Leger Grindon, Associate Professor and Director of Film/Video Studies
The Hollywood film industry has undergone major changes since the establishment of the big studios in the 1920s. We will explore the similarities and differences between the "New Hollywood" that emerged in the mid-seventies and the classical studio productions of the "Old Hollywood" by comparing pairs of films in three genres: romantic comedy, gangster films, and "social problem" films. The pairs of films chosen for discussion are *His Girl Friday* (1940) and *Annie Hall* (1977), *Public Enemy* (1931) and *Goodfellas* (1990), and *On the Waterfront* (1954) and *Do the Right Thing* (1989). Students are asked to watch each film on video in the weeks before attending Alumni College to prepare for studying various scenes in detail during class sessions.

3. The Geologic Landscape of Vermont
Kimberly Hannula, Assistant Professor of Geology
Six hundred million years ago, Vermont lay in a continental rift zone similar to that of East Africa today. Since then, it has been the shelf of a tropical ocean, a mountain range similar to the Himalayas, a landscape covered with glaciers, and an inland finger of the Atlantic Ocean. We will explore Vermont's geological history in a series of field trips in the Green Mountains and the Champlain Valley. Most of our exploration will be on foot, with some strenuous hikes that include scrambling over rocks, so bring your hiking boots.

4. The Civil War and American Historical Memory
John McCardell, President and Professor of History
John Mooney, Class of 1998
The Civil War has cast a long shadow over every aspect of American life. This course will consider the sectional conflict and its influence upon both participants and successor generations. The primary focus will be upon historical texts, but we also will explore literary, architectural, musical, and cinematic expressions of the war and its meaning. Our objective is to gain a better understanding of the enduring importance of this historical event and of the ways in which time, distance, and context affect our understanding.

5. Snapshot: A Brief History of American Photography
Kirsten Powell, Associate Professor of Art
We will survey the development of American photography from the appearance of the daguerreotype in 1840 to recent trends in straight and manipulated photography today. We will consider the techniques of early photography, as well as the impact of photography on American culture. Particular attention will be paid to photography and the Civil War, landscape photography and the development of the West, photography and social commentary, the rise of "pictorialism," the work of Ansel Adams, photojournalism and the WPA, and the photography of World War II. We will work with both slides and the photograph collection at the College museum.

6. New Americas, New Centuries
John McWilliams, Julian W. Abernethy Professor of American Literature; James Ralph, Associate Professor of History; Timothy Spears, Assistant Professor of American Literature and Civilization and Director of the Major in American Civilization
With what combination of hope, fear, confidence, and anxiety do Americans contemplate their "grand experiment" as one century turns into the next? What continuities and what differences can be seen in these prospects for the future? To what extent are such prospects based on isolationism or global thinking, on ethnic identity or social status, on political or religious values, on geographical conditions or economic expectations? We will read and discuss selections from writings at the turn of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, as well as viewing films and paintings, in an attempt to answer these questions.

7. A Miscellany: The Close of the American Century
This year's miscellany course follows the theme of the state of America at the close of the century with a series of lectures related to major issues, problems, and achievements. As always, it includes some well-known contributors from past Alumni Colleges, along with some new faces. The classes include: Larry Yarbrough on religion, Peggy Nelson on the changing status of American women, Holly Allen on technology and the American imagination, John Hunisak on the meaning of Andy Warhol, Ted Sasson on the role of the media, Will Nash on African-American writers, and Bob Cluss on the battle between science and disease in the AIDS epidemic.

Faculty

Murray Dry began teaching political philosophy and American constitutional law at Middlebury in 1968. Since then, his courses, particularly PS 101, Introduction to Political Science, have achieved a legendary status among Middlebury graduates. A course with Professor Dry is an intellectual experience one never forgets. The author of several works on the American founding and, most recently, free speech, Murray is returning from a year as a visiting scholar at Stanford, where he has been working on a book on the first amendment.

Leger Grindon came to Middlebury after many years devoted to watching movies in Los Angeles, Berkeley, and New York City, an avocation that led to a Ph.D. in cinema studies at New York University. Though he enjoys the movies from the "New Hollywood," Leger still dreams about affairs to remember with Ingrid Bergman, and dancing like Fred Astaire, but he has stopped trying to smoke cigarettes like Humphrey Bogart. He is currently working on a study of the Hollywood boxing film.

Kimberly Hannula teaches courses in tectonics, structural geology, and petrology, many of which take advantage of the world-class deformed rocks that surround Middlebury. She became a geologist because she was fascinated by the mountains she hiked as a child in Maine. Kim's research on the contorted metamorphic rocks that make up the roots of ancient mountain belts has taken her from the Seward Peninsula of Alaska to Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. The Middlebury students who spend their summers mapping with her frequently present their findings at professional geology conferences.

John McCardell has served as Middlebury's president for the past six years; previously he was well-known to many Middlebury and Alumni College students as an outstanding classroom teacher of American history. Among American historians, John is highly regarded for his prize-winning study, *Idea of a Southern Nation*. His most recent book is an edited volume of essays, *A Master's Due: Essays in Honor of David Herbert Donald*.

Kirsten Powell, who has taught courses on modern art at Middlebury since 1983, has been a frequent contributor to Alumni College, not only as a "back by popular demand" teacher, but also as a recent director. Her research has examined a variety of topics, including French book illustration and caricature, the work of Picasso and de Kooning, and, most recently, photography. An avid collector, as well as scholar, of photographic art, she is now at work on a history of landscape photography.

John McWilliams is happily returning to full-time teaching next fall after a stint as Middlebury's vice president for academic affairs. A noted scholar on the formation of the American identity in early American literature, he currently is at work on a book on New England historiography.

John Mooney '98, a student from Cary, North Carolina, is a double history/English major, who took John McCardell's seminar on the Civil War last fall and is attending the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference this summer. He fills out his academic schedule as a member of the Dissipated 8 singing group.

James Ralph '82 has established a reputation as one of Middlebury's most dynamic and popular teachers. A civil rights scholar, he is author of the highly praised *Northern Protest: Martin Luther King, Jr., Chicago and the Civil Rights Movement*. Though his province is the past, it is often the recent past, so he assures us that he is not temperamentally hostile to prognostication.

Timothy Spears's American literature and civilization courses cover topics ranging from American autobiography to Southern literature to popular culture. As a testimonial to the esteem in which he is held by his students, Tim was elected by February 1997 graduates as the faculty speaker for their mid-year celebration dinner. He is the author of *100 Years on the Road: The Traveling Salesman in American Culture*.

Russell J. Leng '60, professor of political science, serves as academic director of Alumni College.

Special Events

Lecture: The Native Vermonter and His Sense of Humor
David K. Smith '42, Professor Emeritus of Economics
Thursday evening, August 28

Concert by Middlebury Student Singers
Friday evening, August 29

Question and Answer Session: Middlebury College Today
John M. McCardell, Jr., President
4 p.m., Saturday, August 30

"Sentimental Journey" Cabaret
Cathy Walsh, Former Director of Student Activities
Emory Fanning, Professor Emeritus of Music
Saturday evening, August 30

Registration Form
22nd Alumni College
August 27-31, 1997

Please reserve a place for me

_____ Class_____

and a place for my spouse/guest

_____

Address_____

_____

Phone_____

My first choice is #____ My second choice is #____

Spouse/guest first choice is #____ Spouse/guest second choice is #____

Special housing needs?_____

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Fees

$450—all-inclusive cost per person (12 meals, lodging for four nights at Bread Loaf, tuition, books); $425—first-timers.

Method of payment

☐ Check payable to Middlebury College

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card number_____ Expiration date_____

Cardholder's name_____

Cardholder's signature_____

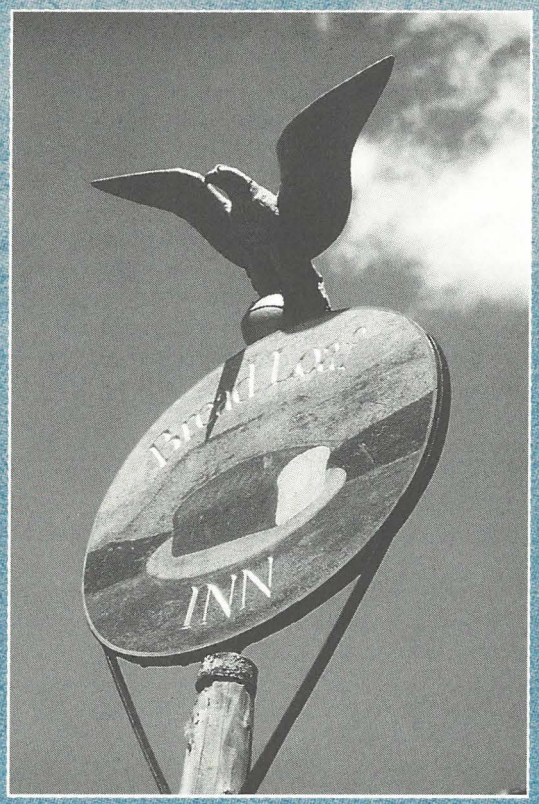
Please send form with payment to:
Alumni and Parent Programs Office
Kirk Alumni Center
Middlebury College
Middlebury, VT 05753

Reservation Deadline:
August 15, 1997
No refunds after August 15

Need more information, including child care options?
Call the Alumni and Parent Programs Office at (802) 443-5183; fax: (802) 443-2082.

America at the End of the Millennium

Walter Lippmann predicted that the 20th century would be "America's century." Few would challenge the accuracy of that prediction today. As the 20th century nears its end, we may wonder what "America's century" has brought to the United States itself. The courses selected for Alumni College this year reflect on the character of the country today, where it stands in relation to its past, and some of the issues that remain unresolved.



Please join other Middlebury alumni, parents, and friends for a long weekend prelude to Labor Day, filled with great ideas, professors, scenery, and friends.